

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 COPENH 00468 200837Z

16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 ACDA-05 MC-02

SIL-01 LAB-04 COME-00 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /070 W

----- 108876

P 191705Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 461

OSAF WASHDC PRIORITY

DOD WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

AFSC ANDREWS AFB

ASD WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH/YP

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COPENHAGEN 0468

OSAF FOR ASST SEC SHRONTZ

EMBASSIES THE HAGUE, BRUSSELS, AND OSLO PLEASE PASS

MAAGS AND VISITING TEAMS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, DA

SUBJECT: F-104 REPLACEMENT: LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER DEVELOPMENTS
IN DENMARK

SUMMARY: ON FEBRUARY 17, DANISH TV PRESENTED A
BALANCED DOCUMENTARY ON THE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER REPLACEMENT
ISSUE. PARLIAMENT REOPENS TOMORROW WITH THE PRESENTATION
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 COPENH 00468 200837Z

BY THE NEW SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT OF ITS PROGRAM TO

REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT AND IMPROVE THE ECONOMY. THE LIGHT-WEIGHT FIGHTER QUESTION MAY ALSO SURFACE IN A FULL-BLOWN DEBATE RELATIVELY EARLY EVEN THOUGH DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MOLLER HAS SAID THAT NO DANISH DECISION ON A NEW AIRCRAFT CAN BE TAKEN BEFORE MARCH 31. WE HOPE TO ARRANGE A MEETING BETWEEN THE VISITING F-16 TEAM AND DANISH TRADE UNION OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE THE LATTER WHO HAVE PUBLICLY SUPPORTED THE SWEDISH OFFER. A VISIT BY CHAIRMEN LEWIS AND GRAY TO COPENHAGEN IN MARCH WOULD BE USEFUL AS WELL AS A VISIT TO THE US BY DANISH MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 17, THE DANISH STATE-OWNED TELEVISION PRESENTED AN HOUR-LONG DOCUMENTARY ON THE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER REPLACEMENT ISSUE. THE PROGRAM, WHICH SHOWED FILM CLIPS OF THE VIGGEN, MIRAGE F-1 AND THE F-16, WAS BALANCED AND THE QUALITY OF THE PRODUCTION WAS IMPRESSIVE. THE SUPERIORITY OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE F-16 AS WELL AS ITS LOWER PRICE CAME ACROSS CLEARLY. THE PROGRAM ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE IN ANY CHOICE OF CO-PRODUCTION AND OFFSET IN TERMS OF BENEFIT TO DENMARK'S ECONOMY, TECHNOLOGY TO BE GAINED, AND UNEMPLOYMENT TO BE ABATED.

2. THOSE INTERVIEWED IN THE PROGRAM INCLUDED AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF MAJOR GENERAL HOLST SORENSEN, WHO DESCRIBED THE MISSION OF THE DANISH AIR FORCE AND WAS CAREFUL TO AVOID EXPOSING A PREFERENCE FOR ANY OF THE CONTENDING AIRCRAFT; FORMER LIBERAL DEFENSE MINISTER ERLING BRONDUM, WHO FAVORED THE F-16 AND SAID THAT THE REAL QUESTION FOR THE DANES WAS WHETHER TO BUY NOW OR TO OPT OUT OF ANY EFFECTIVE AIR FORCE IN THE 1980'S; SOCIALIST PEOPLES' PARTY LEADER GERT PETERSEN, WHO STRONGLY ARGUED AGAINST THE PURCHASE OF ANY AIRCRAFT AND SAID THAT EVEN "MAKE WORK" PROJECTS IN DENMARK TO STIMULATE THE ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT WOULD BE BETTER THAN AN AIRCRAFT PURCHASE FOR THAT PURPOSE; THE RADICAL PARTY'S DEFENSE SPOKESMAN, BILGRAV-NIELSEN, WHO SAID THAT THE RADICALS REMAINED UNCONVINCED AS TO THE NECESSITY OF AN AIRCRAFT PURCHASE IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND ASKED "WHAT WILL DENMARK'S CONTRIBUTION TO NATO BE WHEN THE PRESENT FOUR YEAR DEFENSE AGREEMENT EXPIRES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 COPENH 00468 200837Z

IN 1977?"; AND THE NEW SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MOLLER WHO, INTERVIEWED FROM BRUSSELS, AFFIRMED THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT HAD YET TO MAKE A DECISION TO BUY ANY AIRCRAFT AND THAT PARLIAMENT WOULD BE CONSULTED FULLY BEFORE SUCH A DECISION WERE TAKEN.

3. ALTHOUGH NOT APPEARING ON THE PROGRAM, THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE DANISH TRADE UNION CONGRESS (LO),

THOMAS NIELSEN, WAS FELT WHEN THE INTERVIEWER ASKED DEFENSE MINISTER MOLLER FOR HIS REACTION TO NIELSEN'S PUBLIC STATEMENT SUPPORTING A DANISH PURCHASE OF THE VIGGEN AS REPRESENTING THE GREATEST ECONOMIC BENEFIT AND STIMULANT TO INCREASED EMPLOYMENT IN DENMARK. MOLLER REPLIED THAT HE BELIEVED THAT NO ONE IN DENMARK WAS YET FULLY ENOUGH INFORMED ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THE VARIOUS CO-PRODUCTION AND OFFSET PROPOSALS IN ORDER TO MAKE A DECISION NOW. THE PERIOD OVER THE NEXT MONTH WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ARRIVE AT A COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THESE OFFERS.

4. THE F-16 TEAM LED BY FRED WOOD ARRIVES IN COPENHAGEN THIS EVENING, FEBRUARY 19, AND WILL CONDUCT DISCUSSIONS WITH COMMERCE MINISTRY OFFICIAL KATE GALLE AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM POTENTIAL DANISH CO-PRODUCERS AND THE FEDERATION OF DANISH INDUSTRIES. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT A MEETING BETWEEN APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF THE VISITING TEAM AND AN LO REPRESENTATIVE IN ORDER TO BEGIN THE NECESSARY MISSIONARY WORK TO CHANGE THOMAS NIELSEN'S POSITION TO ONE OF AT LEAST NEUTRALITY.

5. FOLKETING (PARLIAMENT) REOPENS TOMORROW WITH THE PRESENTATION BY THE NEW SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT OF ITS PROGRAM WHICH WILL THEN BE DEBATED. THE PRESENTATION WILL FOCUS MAINLY ON DENMARK'S GENERAL ECONOMIC AND UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS. IF THE QUESTION OF THE F-16 IS INCLUDED IN THE PACKAGE, IT PRESUMABLY WILL ONLY REFLECT THE LINE TAKEN BY MOLLER NOTED ABOVE. ACCORDING TO TODAY'S PRESS, HOWEVER, THE SOCIALIST PEOPLES' PARTY SAY THEY WILL PRESS FOR A PARLIAMENTARY INTERPELLATION ON THE F-16 QUESTION AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY. THIS WOULD PROVIDE THE OCCASION FOR A FULL-BLOWN DEBATE ON THE ISSUE RELATIVELY EARLY IN THIS NEW SESSION AND BEFORE THE FINAL DETAILS OF THE COMPETING OFFERS OF THE THREE CONTENDERS WERE IN HAND.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 COPENH 00468 200837Z

6. WE RECOMMEND A VISIT BY G-D AND UA CHAIRMEN LEWIS AND GRAY TO COPENHAGEN. SUCH A VISIT COULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEETINGS WITH DANISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, AND LABOR UNION LEADERS. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT A VISIT SHOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL THE FIRST HALF OF MARCH. THIS WOULD ALLOW DEFENSE MINISTER MOLLER, WHO MAINTAINS HE WANTS TO BUY THE F-16, TIME TO SETTLE IN HIS NEW JOB AND PRESENT HIS VIEWS TO HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE GOVERNMENT. (ON MONDAY NIGHT, MOLLER STATED THAT DENMARK WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE A DECISION BEFORE MARCH 31 WHEN THE FRENCH AND SWEDISH OFFERS ARE TO EXPIRE.)

7. FINALLY, NOW THAT A DANISH GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN FORMED, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL FOR TWO OR THREE

REPRESENTATIVES OF DANISH MEDIA TO BE INCLUDED IN ANY INVITATION TO THE US TO PROVIDE THEM WITH A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE F-16'S PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTION PROGRAM.
CROWE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, TELEVISION BROADCASTING, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, F-104
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COPENH00468
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750060-0546
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750233/aaaabdda.tel
Line Count: 174
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <17 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: F-104 REPLACEMENT: LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER DEVELOPMENTS IN DENMARK
TAGS: MASS, DA
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006